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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1491
INFO RUEABND/DEA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1725

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000797

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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA STATE FOR
INL
BOGOTA FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [SNAR](#) [KCRM](#) [KPAO](#) [PINR](#) [KMDR](#) [CO](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - COLOMBIA NEEDS U.S. SUPPORT AND FTA

11. On July 15, Chile's conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 129,000) ran an editorial entitled, "Democratic Security." Quote:

12. "The President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, has had a dramatic increase in popularity... in spite of accusations of ties between members of his family and paramilitary groups of the right.... In Colombian public opinion, Uribe's trajectory is more important.... But the Colombian President needs U.S. support to build a modern democracy and fight narcotics trafficking. And to accomplish this, he must persuade opposition in the United States that Colombia respects human rights, is open to international observation, and that the successful fight against terrorism has been verified by the United Nations. But if the U.S. Congress votes against the FTA, the usual anti-U.S. voices already know (and have warned) what they will say: 'See what happens to the friends of the United States.'"

KELLY